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Air Resources Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

TO: School Superintendent/Transportation Director

FROM: Jack Kitowski, Chief /s/
On-Road Control Branch

DATE: September 8, 2008

SUBJECT: **Lower-Emission School Bus Program Invitation to Apply for Funds to Replace and/or Retrofit Diesel School Buses**

You are invited to apply for funding from the *Lower-Emission School Bus Program* (Program). The Program provides funds that will allow you to purchase new public school buses to replace old, high-emitting public school buses, and to equip in-use diesel school buses with retrofit devices that significantly reduce toxic soot emissions. The primary goal of the Program is to reduce your school children's exposure to both cancer-causing and smog-forming pollution.

The ARB provides the grant funding and administers the Program with the help of the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) and the support of ICF International (Program Administrator). The Program provides funding to eligible public school districts and Joint Power Authorities to purchase new school buses and install verified diesel soot filters (retrofits) on school buses. For more details on funding availability and eligibility criteria, please read the attached document, Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), before completing the applications.

There is no cost to your school district for any retrofits or for replacement of the very oldest buses. There is a match requirement for each 1977-1986 bus replacement. The match fund requirement is explained in Section 5 and 6 of the NOFA. Before completing your new purchase application, contact your local air district and ask if match funds are available. Air district contact information can be found at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/moyer/contacts.htm>. Note that a resolution from your school board is required to participate in the Program, please refer to Section 8 of NOFA for more details. The completed applications will be reviewed by the Program Administrator and ARB. Replacement bus funding will be awarded to replace older buses first in each air district. In the event of a tie breaker, priority will be given to school districts that also apply for retrofit funding.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

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Note: Bus and Retrofit purchases must not occur before school districts receive school board approval and execute a grant with ARB.

Additional information about the Program, including eligibility criteria, eligible technologies, participation requirements, and application procedures, is available on the *Lower-Emission School Bus* Web site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/schoolbus/schoolbus.htm> or by emailing the Program Administrator at schoolbusinfo@icfi.com or calling the Program hotline at 415-677-7160. Grant applications are **due by 5:00 p.m. on October 31, 2008**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Send applications to:

**Lower-Emission School Bus Program
ICF International
394 Pacific Avenue, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111**

Enclosures:

Lower-Emission School Bus Workshop Schedule
NOFA
New Purchase and Retrofit Applications

Downloaded from: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/schoolbus/arbimplementation.htm>

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